

ALL
ROMANCES

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ALL ROMANCES



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MENACE TO OUR MARRIAGE



MARGE ARRIVED THE FOLLOWING WEEK. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE HER AGAIN! SHE WAS AS SPARKLING, LOVELY AND VIVACIOUS AS EVER!



SUE! SUE DARING!

OH, MARGE, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

YOU'RE GEORGE! WHY, SUE NEVER TOLD ME WHAT A **HANDSOME** HUNK OF MAN SHE'D SNAORED FOR HERSELF! I'D HAVE COME SOONER IF I'D KNOWN!

YOU LOOK MAE-VELOUS, MARGE! NO ONE WOULD KNOW YOU'D BEEN ILL!



THE DOCTOR PRESCRIBED REST, BUT JUST SEEMS YOU IS WONDERFUL MEDICINE! I FEEL LIKE DANCING!

SO DO I! BUT WE'LL EITHER HAVE TO DANCE WITH EACH OTHER OR FIND US ANOTHER MAN! GEORGE HATES TO DANCE! HE'S NOT PERFECT! JUST ALMOST!



YOU'VE GOT A BEAUTIFUL HOME, SUE! I GATHER GEORGE IS JUST AS SUCCESSFUL AS HE IS HANDSOME! I ENVY YOU!

I HOPE YOU'LL LIKE YOUR ROOM! IT'S THE SUNNIEST IN THE HOUSE!

MARGE WAS A BIT TOO GENEROUS WITH HER FLATTERY! AND MORE THAN ONCE GEORGE REDDENED! BUT I'M SURE HE RATHER LIKED IT!



LET'S GET THROUGH WITH THE DISHES FAST, HONEY.

OH, YOU'RE EXCUSED FOR TONIGHT, DARING! WHY DON'T YOU PLAY SOME RECORDS FOR MARGE WHILE I CLEAN UP?



COME ON, GEORGE! PLAY SOMETHING JIVEY, AND WE'LL CUT A RUG!

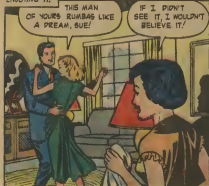
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REST, YOUNG LADY! AND BEHIDES, I'M NOT MUCH GOOD IN THE DANCE DEPARTMENT!

MARGE WASN'T A GIRL TO TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER! I HAD TO LAUGH WHEN I THOUGHT OF HER TRYING TO TEACH GEORGE TO RUMBA, BUT THAT'S WHAT SHE WAS DOING!



THERE'S NOTHING TO IT! NOW WATCH ME!

BUT WHEN I CAME OUT OF THE KITCHEN A LITTLE LATER, THE LAUGH WAS ON ME! GEORGE WAS NOT ONLY DANCING THE RUMBA, BUT HE WAS QUITE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYING IT!



THIS MAN OF YOURS RUMBAS LIKE A DREAM, SUE!

IF I DIDN'T SEE IT, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT!

MADGE MONOPOLIZED GEORGE'S ATTENTION ALL EVENING AND PRACTICALLY IGNORED ME! IT GRADUALLY DAWNED ON ME THAT SHE WAS BEING MORE THAN JUST SOCIABLE!



YOU HAVEN'T SHOWN ME THE GROUNDS, GEORGE. SHALL WE GO OUTSIDE?

WE'VE GOT A FRONT LAWN AND A BACK YARD WITH BOMB FLOWERS IN IT, BUT IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING NOW. AND IT'S GETTING LATE!



YOU CAME HERE TO REST, MADGE, AND IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT NOW! YOU GO TO BED AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP! THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED!

OKAY, DOC, BUT I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT SLEEPY! I NEVER FELT BETTER IN MY LIFE!



MADGE IS AN AWFULLY SWEET KID, HONEY! LOTS OF FUN, TOO!

SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU LIKE HER SO MUCH! SHE'S GOT QUITE A CRUSH ON YOU, YOU KNOW!



WHY, SUE! THAT'S RIDICULOUS!

IS IT?

MAYBE GEORGE WAS BLIND, BUT I WASN'T! MY OWN FRIEND WAS MAKING A SHAMELESS PLAY FOR HIM RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE! IT WAS INCREDIBLE, BUT IT WAS TRUE!



I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, SUE! MADGE WAS JUST TRYING TO BE PLEASANT COMPANY--AND SO WAS I!

GO TO SLEEP, GEORGE, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M SORRY I SAID ANYTHING. GOOD NIGHT!

THE NEXT MORNING...



FOR A GIRL WHO WASN'T SLEEPY, YOU DID ALL RIGHT! ARE YOU READY TO COME DOWN FOR SOME BREAKFAST?

COULD YOU BRING IT UP HERE ON A TRAY, SUE DARLING? I FEEL DIVINELY LAZY!

6 THE DAY MORE ON, I BEGAN TO WONDER IF I HADN'T BEEN A BIT SILLY THE NIGHT BEFORE--THINKING THAT MARGE WAS MAKING A PLAY FOR GEORGE. SHE MIGHT SIMPLY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE OVER-EASER IN HER ATTEMPT TO WIN HIS APPROVAL. BUT SHE WOULDN'T BE SO ENERGETIC THIS EVENING! IT WAS EVIDENT THAT SHE WAS WEAK AND TIRED, I HAD TO WAIT ON HER ALL DAY!

I'D LIKE TO WEAR THIS AT DINNER, SUE, BUT IT'S WRINKLED. WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND RUN AN IRON OVER IT WHILE I TAKE A SHOWER?

WHY--WHY, OF COURSE, MARGE! JUST FOLD IT OVER THE CHAIR. I'LL GET TO IT IN A MINUTE!



7 FELT A BIT PEEVED AT MARGE FOR GIVING ME EXTRA WORK, BUT I REMINDED MYSELF THAT SHE WASN'T WELL. WHEN SHE FELT BETTER, SHE'D PITCH IN AND GIVE ME A HAND!

THANKS, SUE! YOU DID A SWELL JOB! I NEVER COULD HAVE MANAGED IT!

OH! THE ROAST!



8 LITTLE LATER...

HELLO, DARLINS! HI, MARGE! I HOPE YOU FEEL AS WONDERFUL AS YOU LOOK!

I WAS HOPING I LOOKED HALF AS WONDERFUL AS I FEEL!



SAY... THE MEAT TASTED BURNED!

SUE NEVER WAS TOO HANDY IN A KITCHEN AS I REMEMBER! BUT YOU CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING, GEORGE--OR CAN YOU?



9 MARGE CERTAINLY MADE A QUICK RECOVERY! NOW THAT MY HUSBAND WAS HOME, SHE SIMPLY OVERFLOWED WITH CHARM AND ENERGY!

YOU CATCH ON QUICK! YOU'RE DOING A PERFECT SAMBA, GEORGE DARLINS!

NOW IT'S GEORGE DARLINS! I HAD MARGE'S--NUMBER RIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE! SHE IS TRYING TO STEAL GEORGE AWAY FROM ME!



10 MARGE WAS AS CLEVER AS SHE WAS UNSCRUPULOUS! SHE'D DELIBERATELY FEIGNED TIREDNESS JUST TO KEEP ME ON THE GO ALL DAY SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TIME TO SHOWER, DO MY HAIR, AND CHANGE INTO A FRESH DRESS BY THE TIME GEORGE GOT HOME!

SHE IS PRETTY--PRETTIER THAN I AM!





■ WAS GLAD WHEN SATURDAY CAME! GEORGE ALWAYS WENT FISHING ON SATURDAYS WHEN THE WEATHER WAS NICE. AT LEAST MARGE WOULDN'T MONOPOLIZE HIS ENTIRE WEEK-END AS SHE DID HIS EVENINGS!



WHAT COULD I DO? WHAT COULD I SAY? I COULD ONLY STRUGGLE TO HOLD BACK THE TEARS! NOW MADGE WAS SHOWING HIM SHE WAS A BETTER COMPANION THAN I!



DON'T COOK ANYTHING, DEAR! WE'RE HAVING FISH FOR DINNER TONIGHT!

AND DON'T WORRY, SUE--I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF GEORGE!

I'D NEVER FELT MORE MISERABLE IN MY LIFE--OR MORE FRIGHTENED AND HELPLESS! I COULDN'T MAKE A SCENE--GEORGE WOULD ONLY THINK I WAS JEALOUS, SUSPICIOUS, UNREASONABLE! MADGE WAS TRYING TO ROAD ME INTO MAKING A SCENE FOR JUST THAT REASON! WHAT COULD I DO?



WHAT AFTERNOON...



ACTUALLY DO HAVE FISH FOR DINNER, DARLING! AND MADGE CAUGHT MOST OF THEM! WHAT A GAL!!

I'M FAMISHED! I'M GONNA GORGE MYSELF! PLEASE TRY NOT TO BURN THE FISH, SUE!

HERE THEY WERE, LAUGHING OVER A HIGHBALL, WHILE I CLEANED SMELLY FISH! I FELT THAT IN ANOTHER MOMENT I'D EXPLODE!



I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I'VE ENJOYED MYSELF MORE! YOU'RE WONDERFUL! HERE'S TO YOU!

HERE'S TO-- US!

DON'T KNOW HOW I MANAGED TO ENDURE THE EVENING! MY LIFE HAD BECOME A NIGHTMARE!



YOU-- YOU LIKE MADGE A LOT, DON'T YOU, GEORGE?

I SURE DO! SHE'S A GRAND PERSON!

GAY--YOU'RE NOT STILL THINKING--

THAT MADGE IS TRYING TO STEAL YOU AWAY FROM ME? AND THAT YOU'RE BEGINNING TO FIND HER SIMPLY GRAND? OH, OF COURSE NOT! HOW COULD SUCH A THOUGHT ENTER MY HEAD?



THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MADGE, GUS! BUT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONGS WITH YOU! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL!

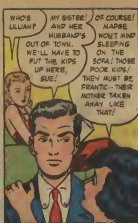
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I-- I HAVE SUCH A DREADFUL HEADACHE! LET'S NOT QUARREL, GEORGE!



GEORGE WAS FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER! I WAS LOSING HIM--AND THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO OR SAY WITHOUT MAKING THINGS WORSE FOR MYSELF!



UNDAY MORNING SOMETHING SUDDENLY HAPPENED TO TAKE MY MIND OFF MY OWN HEARTACHE...

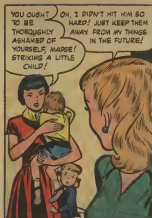


THE CHILDREN WERE FUN TO HAVE AND WORTH THE EXTRA WORK! GEORGE LOVED THEM! HE PLAYED WITH THEM FROM THE MINUTE HE GOT HOME IN THE EVENINGS UNTIL THEY WENT TO BED--IGNORING MADGE AND ME...



BUT MADGE DIDN'T THINK THE CHILDREN WERE SO WONDERFUL WHEN GEORGE WASN'T HOME! IN FACT, ONE DAY...

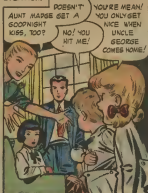




YOU OUGHT TO BE THOROUGHLY ASHAMED OF YOURSELF, MARGE! STRIKING A LITTLE CHILD!

OH, I DIDN'T HIT HIM SO HARD! JUST KEEP THEM AWAY FROM MY THINGS IN THE FUTURE!

I SAID NOTHING TO GEORGE ABOUT THE INCIDENT-- AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO! THAT EVENING...



AUNT MARGE GET A GOODNIGHT KISS, TOO?

DOESN'T AUNT MARGE GET A KISS WHEN UNCLE GEORGE COMES HOME?

NO! YOU HIT ME!

THERE WAS NO DANCING THAT NIGHT! MARGE SAID SHE HAD A HEADACHE AND WENT TO BED EARLY...



WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME HOW TWO-FACED YOUR FRIEND IS? WHY DID YOU LET ME THINK SHE WAS SUCH A GRAND GIRL?

AND SPOIL YOUR FUN JUST WHEN YOU WERE HAVING SUCH A WONDERFUL TIME?

JUST A MINUTE, SUE! LET'S GET THINGS STRAIGHT! I LIKED MARGE AND ENJOYED HER COMPANY-- THE SAME WAY I'D ENJOY A MAN'S COMPANY IF HE WERE PLEASANT AND INTERESTING! YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING ELSE OUT OF IT!

IT'S MARGE WHO'S TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING ELSE OUT OF IT, NOT I! YOU'VE JUST BEEN TOO BLIND TO SEE IT!



YOU MUST BE WRONG ABOUT THAT! AFTER ALL, MARGE KNOWS I'M NOT ONLY MARRIED, BUT VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH MY WIFE! BUT GETTING BACK TO THE REAL PROBLEM-- DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD Worry ABOUT HER LEAVING? IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HER AND THE KIDS, TOO-- AND THEY DO BELONG TO US! THEY NEED ATTENTION--NOT MARGE!



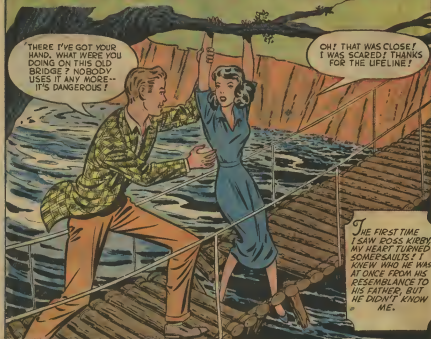
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT FOR, HONEY?

YOU, MY DOPEY DARLING, WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! BUT I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH!



The End

HE SUSPECTED THE WORST



"THERE I'VE GOT YOUR HAND. WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON THIS OLD BRIDGE? NOBODY USES IT ANY MORE-- IT'S DANGEROUS!"

OH! THAT WAS CLOSE! I WAS SCARED! THANKS FOR THE LIFELINE!

THE FIRST TIME I SAW BOSS KIRBY, MY HEART TURNED SOMERSAULTS! I KNEW WHO HE WAS AT ONCE FROM HIS RESEMBLANCE TO HIS FATHER, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW ME.



YOU SCARED ME, TOO! I WASN'T SURE THAT OLD BRIDGE COULD HOLD US BOTH. WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?

I'M LESLIE BLAINE. MY MOTHER MARRIED YOUR FATHER A WEEK AGO, YOU KNOW. WELCOME HOME!

I KNEW BY THE WAY ROSS STEPPED BACK FROM ME, THAT IT WAS GOING TO BE WAR BETWEEN US! I WAS DESOLATE...

SO YOU'RE THE DAUGHTER OF THAT SCHEMING WOMAN WHO MARRIED MY POOR SICK FATHER TO GIVE HERSELF A SOFT LIFE!

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL! MY MOTHER HAS BEEN NURSING YOUR DAD FOR THREE WHOLE YEARS! A SINCERE AFFECTION SPRANG UP BETWEEN THEM. YOUR DAD WAS LONELY!



WE WALKED TOWARD KIRBY HOUSE TOGETHER, BUT WE WERE A MILLION MILES APART...

IF THAT CRACK ABOUT DAD'S BEING LONELY IS INTENDED FOR ME, SKIP IT! I KNOW I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME FOR OVER THREE YEARS, BUT DAD UNDERSTANDS I LIKE TO TRAVEL AROUND. HE ALWAYS UNDERSTANDS.

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS LONELINESS!



THAT'S HOW THE FEUD BETWEEN US BEGAN. IT GOT NO BETTER IN THE TWO WEEKS ROSS WAS AT HOME...

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ROSS'S FRIENDS DOWNSTAIRS? THE MUSIC SOUNDS GAY!

I--I'M NOT IN A DANCING MOOD, UNCLE JIM.



I'M AFRAID ROSS THINKS WE'RE A COUPLE OF SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS, JIM. HE FIGURES I MARRIED YOU WHEN YOU WEREN'T LOOKING?

ACTUALLY I PRACTICALLY HAD TO SHANGHAI YOU TO GET YOU TO BE MY WIFE! I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT ROSS AND LESLIE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS!



I KNEW UNCLE JIM WOULD MAKE THINGS WORSE IF HE TRIED TO FORCE ROSS TO LIKE ME, SO I SAID I WOULD GO DOWNSTAIRS TO THE PARTY. INSTEAD, I WENT OUT INTO THE ROSE GARDEN IN BACK OF THE HOUSE.

WHEN YOUR FATHER DIES AND YOU GET YOUR MONEY, WE'LL START A NIGHT CLUB IN MIAMI! OR MAYBE A PLACE IN NEVADA!

I DON'T LIKE CRACKS MADE ABOUT MY DAD'S DYING! I LOVE MY FATHER, MAVIS! SAY, WHAT'S THAT?



I STEPPED ON A TWIG, GIVING AWAY MY PRESENCE! THEY BOTH WHIRLED ABOUT TO FACE ME!

I THINK YOUR FATHER WANTS YOU, ROSS. YOU NEGLECT HIM TERRIBLY!

YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG, LESLIE. MY DAD WANTS ME TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. BY THE WAY, THIS IS MAVIS, MY SECOND COUSIN.



I WENT BACK INTO THE HOUSE WITH AS MUCH DIGNITY AS I COULD MUSTER. ROSS FOLLOWED ME.

I WONDER IF YOU DO DISLIKE ME SO MUCH, MISS SPITFIRE!

YOU-- YOU--



I FORGOT THAT ROSS WAS MY ENEMY AND THAT HE'D SAID HORRIBLE THINGS ABOUT US! I GAVE MYSELF COMPLETELY TO THE ECSTASY OF THAT KISS! BUT SUDDENLY ROSS PUSHED ME AWAY FROM HIM AND BEGAN TO LAUGH!

YOU HATE ME! YET YOU COULD KISS ME LIKE THAT! YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER!



R. KIRBY OVERHEARD THAT, AND THERE WAS AN AWFUL ROW!

I SEE I'VE SPOILED YOU VERY BADLY, ROSS! I'VE LOVED YOU SO MUCH, I DIDN'T REALIZE I WAS MAKING YOU INTO A SELFISH YOUNG MAN. I SHALL TRY TO UNDO THE HARM I'VE DONE YOU!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ARE YOU GOING TO GET RID OF THESE TWO GOLD DIGGERS?



MOTHER STEPPED IN THEN...

WHY DON'T YOU STAY HOME NOW, ROSS, AND GET BETTER ACQUAINTED WITH US? YOU DON'T KNOW US AT ALL!

NO DICE! I'M LEAVING TOMORROW! DAD'S GOT YOU TO TAKE CARE OF HIM! HE DOESN'T NEED ME!



I'M SORRY DAD. I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH! BUT I'M RESTLESS HERE. I'M GOING TO NEW YORK. MAVIS AND HER CROWD HAVE CHARTERED A BOAT TO TAKE US TO THE WEST INDIES!

MAVIS! I CAN'T STAND THAT GIRL EVEN THOUGH SHE IS IN THE FAMILY. LOOK AT THE WAY SHE RAN THROUGH THAT MONEY HER GRANDMOTHER LEFT HER! DISGRACEFUL!



DON'T BLAME MAVIS TOO MUCH, DAD. SHE'S JUST A FLIGHTY GIRL!



I'N SPITE OF MYSELF I WAS VERY UNHAPPY THAT ROSS WAS GOING AWAY...

GOOD-BY, DAD. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! REMEMBER--YOU'RE MY FAVORITE FATHER!

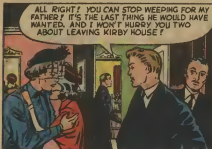
GOOD-BY SON!



AFTER ROSS LEFT, UNCLE JIM SUMMONED HIS LAWYER. WE KNEW HE WAS MAKING HIS WILL, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN IT.



I TRIED HARD TO HATE ROSS IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, BUT MY TREACHEROUS HEART KEPT ON BEING IN LOVE WITH HIM. THEN ONE NIGHT, UNCLE JIM DIED IN HIS SLEEP. ROSS WAS SOMEWHERE ON THE HIGH SEAS. HOWEVER, HE GOT HOME IN TIME FOR THE FUNERAL.



ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN STOP WEeping FOR MY FATHER! IT'S THE LAST THING HE WOULD HAVE WANTED. AND I WON'T HURRY YOU TWO ABOUT LEAVING KIRBY HOUSE!

YOU'D BETTER WAIT A BIT, ROSS, WITH THOSE HIGHHANDED ORDERS! YOUR FATHER MADE A NEW WILL SIX WEEKS AGO. EXCEPT FOR TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, HE LEFT ALL HIS MONEY TO HIS WIFE! AND YOU ONLY GET THAT MONEY IF YOU STAY HERE AT KIRBY HOUSE FOR TWO YEARS!



JIM LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME? I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

NEITHER MOTHER NOR I HAD KNOWN ANYTHING ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE NEW WILL, BUT ROSS REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT!

I CONGRATULATE YOU! YOU SURE PULLED IT OFF, YOU TWO GOLD DIGGERS! YOU NOT ONLY GOT MY DAD TO MARRY YOU, BUT YOU'VE STOLEN MY INHERITANCE AND MY HOUSE!

STOP, ROSS! I WON'T LISTEN TO SUCH TALK! YOUR FATHER KNEW YOU'D SQUANDER YOUR INHERITANCE, SO HE LEFT IT IN SAFE HANDS!



ROSS STAYED IN HIS SUITE OF ROOMS AT THE TOP OF THE HOUSE. WE DIDN'T SEE HIM AT ALL FOR A WHOLE WEEK! THEN, ONE DAY WHILE I WAS WORKING IN THE GARDEN, I LOOKED UP AND THERE HE WAS... SMILING MOCKINGLY AT ME.



THAT'S THE WORST JOB OF SPAIDING I'VE EVER SEEN! HERE, GIVE ME THAT SPADE!

I'VE NEVER MET A MAN BEFORE WHO DIDN'T WORK! WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB?



ROSS WAS STRONG! IT WAS FUN TO WATCH HIM WORK!

DAD WANTED ME TO HAVE A GOOD TIME. HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO TAKE A JOB RIGHT AFTER I GOT OUT OF COLLEGE. BUT WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS ANYHOW? I JUST WAS-- CURIOUS!



I SUDDENLY FELT THE THRILL I USUALLY FELT WHEN ROSS WAS NEAR ME! I WANTED HIM TO KISS ME! I THINK HE FELT THE SAME WAY...



HI, ROSS! HERE I AM!

OH, MAVIS! SO YOU CAME!

MAVIS ROSS FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME AT ONCE.

I MUST SAY YOU DON'T SOUND OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC! YOU INVITED ME TO KIRBY HOUSE. REMEMBER?

LESLIE AND HER MOTHER OWN KIRBY HOUSE. IT ISN'T MINE TO INVITE GUESTS TO.



MAVIS WAS DRIVING A LONG CONVERTIBLE AND SHE HAD HER SUITCASES WITH HER! I WONDERED IF SHE AND ROSS WERE ENGAGED. HOW MY HEART SANK AT THE VERY IDEA!

WHAT A PRICELESS JOKE ON YOU THAT YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR MONEY AFTER ALL, DARLING! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUCH FUN TO START A NIGHT CLUB IN MIAMI OR LAS VEGAS?

IT WAS A SWELL DOUBLE CROSS! LESLIE'S MOTHER MAN-AGED TO MARRY DAD, AND THEN THEY WORKED ON HIM TILL HE LEFT THEM ALL HIS MONEY!



MAVIS GAVE ME A VENOMOUS LOOK, BUT SHE WENT ON TALKING SWEETLY...

I'M SURE LESLIE WILL BE COURTEOUS AND INVITE A COUSIN OF JIM KIRBY'S TO SPEND THE WEEK-END AT KIRBY HOUSE!

OH, DO COME, MISS KIRBY.



I FELT LIKE SCREAMING OUT A DENIAL, BUT I FORCED MYSELF TO PRETEND I HADN'T HEARD.

IN THAT CRAZY WILL DAD MADE, HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MY NOT HAVING COMPANY IN MY TWO YEAR EXILE HERE! SO I'VE INVITED MAVIS KIRBY TO VISIT ME!

OF COURSE, ROSS.. WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE, MISS KIRBY! COME RIGHT UPSTAIRS WITH ME!

I KNOW THE WAY.



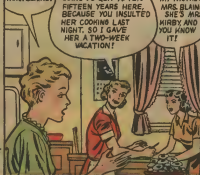
JUST TOAST AND COFFEE WILL DO NICELY FOR ME, MRS. BLAINE.

I'M SORRY, MISS KIRBY BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GET YOUR OWN BREAKFAST! MR. KIRBY'S COOK WAS GOING TO QUIT AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS HERE, BECAUSE YOU INSULTED HER COOKING LAST NIGHT. SO I GAVE HER A TWO-WEEK VACATION!

I WISH YOU'D STOP CALLING MY MOTHER MRS. BLAINE. SHE'S MRS. KIRBY AND YOU KNOW IT!

OF ALL THE INSOLENCE, I'LL BET YOU ODPED MR. KIRBY INTO MARRYING YOU! AND THEN YOU KILLED HIM TO GET THE HOUSE AND MONEY!

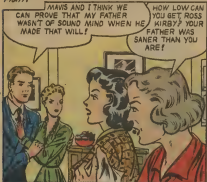
WHAT A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY! TAKE THAT BACK AT ONCE, MISS KIRBY!



MAVIS WAS HARD TO TAKE! SHE WAS SELFISH AND LAZY AND DIDN'T LIFT HER HAND TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP AROUND THE HOUSE.



IF DON'T KNOW HOW LONG ROSS HAD BEEN STANDING IN THE DOORWAY LISTENING BUT RIGHT THEN HE CAME IN AND JOINED IN THE FIGHT.



MAVIS AND I THINK WE CAN PROVE THAT MY FATHER WASN'T OF SOUND MIND WHEN HE MADE THAT WILL!

HOW LOW CAN YOU GET, ROSS KIRBY? YOUR FATHER WAS SANER THAN YOU ARE!

ROSS SAID HE HAD A DATE IN TOWN AND LEFT. MAVIS MADE A MESS OF GETTING TOAST AND COFFEE FOR HERSELF. THEN SHE WENT UPSTAIRS. A LITTLE LATER I SAW HER WALKING TOWARD THE RIVER. HALF AN HOUR LATER ROSS CAME HOME.



YOU DON'T SUPPOSE MAVIS TOOK THE SHORT CUT TO THE VILLAGE, DO YOU? ACROSS THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOUR FATHER LEFT EVERYTHING TO ME, ROSS, BECAUSE HE WANTED US TO HELP YOU BECOME THE FINE MAN HE HOPED YOU'D BE! SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU SHOW YOU CAN HANDLE MONEY, EVERYTHING WILL BE YOURS, I PROMISE YOU THAT!

TALK IS SO CHEAP, MRS. BLAINE.



WHERE'S MAVIS? I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR HER!

I DON'T KNOW, PERSONALLY, I DON'T CARE! BUT I THINK I SAW HER GO TOWARD THE RIVER PATH A LITTLE WHILE AGO.



ROSS SET OUT ON A RUN TOWARD THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE, I WENT ALONG. I'M NOT SURE WHY!



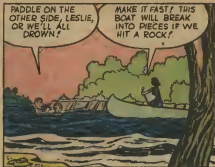
HANG ON, MAVIS! I'M COMING.

DON'T, ROSS! TAKE THE BOAT OUT! THE CURRENT'S TOO SWIFT!

ROSS DIDN'T WAIT! HE KICKED OFF HIS SHOES AND FLUNG OFF HIS COAT AND DIVED INTO THE SWIRLING, TREACHEROUS RIVER...



HE DID GRAB MAVIS, BUT SHE WAS FRANTIC AND FOUGHT HIM! THEY BOTH WENT DOWN...! PADDLED LIKE CRAZY--AND SOMEHOW I REACHED THEM!



PADDLE ON THE OTHER SIDE, LESLIE, OR WE'LL ALL DROWN!

MAKE IT FAST! THIS BOAT WILL BREAK INTO PIECES IF WE HIT A ROCK!

ROSS FINALLY GOT MAVIS INTO THE CANOE AND HE TOOK THE PADDLE...

I DON'T GET THIS, LESLIE! YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE FOR-- MAVIS AND ME!



ANYBODY WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME!

AT LAST ROSS GOT US TO SHORE. MAVIS HADN'T SWALLOWED MUCH WATER. WE GAVE HER SOME FIRST AID, AND SHE SAT UP...

NOW WE'VE GOT THEM JUST WHERE WE WANT THEM, ROSS! WE CAN CLAIM THAT LESLIE TRIED TO DROWN ME-- THAT YOU OVERHEARD HER MOTHER PLOTTING THE WHOLE THING! THEY'LL BE PUT IN JAIL! THEN WE CAN CLAIM...

MAVIS!



WHAT IF LESLIE IS LISTENING? IT'LL BE HER WORD AGAINST OURS! AND I'VE BEEN SPREADING GOSSIP IN THE VILLAGE THAT THEY HAD A HAND IN YOUR FATHER'S DEATH, ROSS.

MAVIS! LESLIE SAVED YOUR LIFE!

OH! (GASP)



I NEVER DID KNOW WHAT ROSS SAID NEXT BECAUSE ALL OF A SUDDEN I FELT THE GROUND COMING UP TO HIT ME. THE EXERTION OF FIGHTING THE SWIFT CURRENT HAD BEEN TOO MUCH FOR ME. I FAINED...

LESLIE RISKED HER OWN LIFE TO SAVE MAVIS AND ME! AND THEN MAVIS WANTED TO--

SHE'S COMING TO!



I HOPE I'VE NEVER SEE ANY OF YOU AGAIN!

GOOD-BY, MAVIS!



AS I WATCHED ROSS CARRY HER SUITCASES TO HER CAR, I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BREAK. ROSS WAS GOING AWAY WITH MAVIS! I'D NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN!



LESLIE--AUNT MARTHA--I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU BOTH!

WHAT IS IT, ROSS?

I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THAT MY FATHER WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU TWO, AND I WAS VERY, VERY WRONG! I DIDN'T DREAM MAVIS WAS SO ROTTEN!



I THOUGHT A GREAT DEAL OF YOUR FATHER, ROSS. HE SAID YOU WERE A FINE BOY--I BELIEVE HE WAS RIGHT!

THAT NIGHT ROSS AND I WENT DOWN BY THE RIVER. WE LOOKED AT THE BROKEN SUSPENSION BRIDGE DRAGGING IN THE SWIFT, SWIRLING WATER... SUDDENLY ROSS TOOK ME IN HIS ARMS...

I GOT A JOB, LESLIE! I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU--AND MAVIS... THEN ALL THIS HAPPENED--



THE REASON I WAS SO MEAN TO YOU AT FIRST, LESLIE, WAS BECAUSE I FELL FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY. I HAD TO FIGHT TO HATE YOU! I THOUGHT YOU AND YOUR MOTHER WERE NO GOOD!

DO YOU--HATE ME NOW, ROSS?



HATE YOU? I'M CRAZY ABOUT YOU! WILL YOU MARRY ME, DARLING?

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!

OH, ROSS, YES!



SUR-PRIZE CONTEST

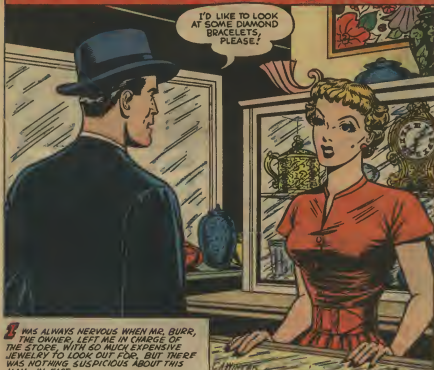
- 1ST PRIZE** . . . \$ **15⁰⁰**
- 2ND PRIZE** . . . \$ **5⁰⁰**
- 3RD PRIZE** . . . \$ **3⁰⁰**
- 4TH PRIZE** . . . \$ **2⁰⁰**

WIN A CASH PRIZE FOR JUST A SHORT LETTER OF NOT MORE THAN 50 WORDS TELLING US WHICH STORY IN ALL ROMANCES YOU LIKE BEST, 2ND BEST, 3RD BEST, AND WHY. ALSO WHICH OTHER MAGAZINES YOU READ REGULARLY.

SEND IT TO US POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 29, 1949, ALONG WITH YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS AND AGE. IN CASE OF A TIE DUPLICATE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED. **DO IT NOW!! HURRY!!**

ALL ROMANCES - 23 WEST 47 ST. N.Y. 19, N.Y.C.

Heart Bandit



I WAS ALWAYS NERVOUS WHEN MR. BURR, THE OWNER, LEFT ME IN CHARGE OF THE STORE, WITH SO MUCH EXPENSIVE JEWELRY TO LOOK OUT FOR, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS MAN, IN FACT...



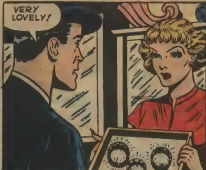
I REALIZED WITH SUDDEN EXCITEMENT THAT HE WAS JUST THE KIND OF MAN I'D HOPED TO MEET WHEN I CAME TO THE CITY.

THE PRICE DOESN'T MATTER, SOMETHING RATHER Dainty, NOT TOO GAUDY-- SOMETHING YOU'D WEAR YOURSELF.



I HAD TO GET THE BRACELETS OUT OF THE SAFE... BUT INSTEAD OF LOOKING AT THE BRACELETS, HE LOOKED AT ME. I KNEW IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO FEEL SO THRILLED BY A PERFECT STRANGER...

I'D HAD CUSTOMERS BEFORE WHO'D TRIED TO FLIRT WITH ME, AND IT ALWAYS ANNOYED ME. MEN WHO ARE BUYING JEWELRY FOR OTHER WOMEN SHOULDN'T FLIRT WITH THE SALESGIRL ... BUT SOMEHOW THIS WAS DIFFERENT...

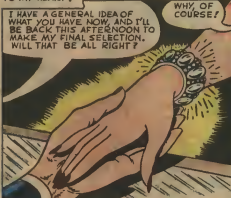


VERY LOVELY!



WOULD YOU SLIP A FEW ON SO I CAN SEE HOW THEY LOOK? YOU HAVE BEAUTIFUL HANDS...

THE TOUCH OF HIS HAND SENT A THRILL STRAIGHT TO MY HEART!



I HAVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT YOU HAVE NOW, AND I'LL BE BACK THIS AFTERNOON TO MAKE MY FINAL SELECTION. WILL THAT BE ALL RIGHT?

WHY, OF COURSE!



SEE YOU LATER!

HE ACTED AS THOUGH HE FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT ME AS I DID ABOUT HIM. HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO HAVE A MAN LIKE THAT FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU!



OF COURSE, SUCH A THING WAS NOT LIKELY TO HAPPEN. MY PERSONAL LIFE DID NOT INCLUDE YOUNG MEN WHO WENT AROUND MAKING CASUAL SELECTIONS OF DIAMOND BRACELETS WORTH THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. EDDIE, WHO WAS ENGAGED TO MYRTLE, MY ROOMMATE, HAD GIVEN HER A DIAMOND RING AND A DIAMOND WRIST WATCH-- BUT ALL THE DIAMONDS IN THE WORLD WOULD NOT HAVE MADE ME LOVE SOMEONE LIKE EDDIE!



I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN HIS NAME. I WONDER WHOM HE WANTED THAT BRACELET FOR?

BEFORE I HAD TIME TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS OR TRY TO SOUND AN ALARM...

DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY BUSINESS, SISTER. JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND KEEP YOUR HANDS ON THE COUNTER!

OH, NO-- PLEASE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!



I KNEW IF I SCREAMED THEY'D SHOOT ME. I WAS TERRIFIED-- ESPECIALLY BECAUSE I FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT ONE OF THESE MEN. YET, I COULDN'T PLACE HIM.

OH, NO! HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THE MAN WHO LOOKED AT THE BRACELETS! AND YET...



SHE'D HEARD THAT VOICE SOMEWHERE BEFORE! IT WASN'T CULTURED AND CHARMING LIKE THE VOICE OF THE MAN WHO'D LOOKED AT THE BRACELETS, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO DISGUISE VOICES.

NO MATTER HOW HE TRIES TO DISGUISE IT, THAT VOICE IS FAMILIAR-- AND HE'S THE SAME BUILD--

SAY, YOU'RE PRETTY! HOW ABOUT A KISS, BABY?



DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME! AND DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW YOU-- OH, HOW COULD YOU?

LET'S SCRAM! IF YOU THINK SHE REALLY KNOWS YOU, I'LL PLUG HER!

SHE'S BLUFFING! IF SHE ISN'T, I'LL ATTEND TO HER LATER. BUT SHE'D BETTER KEEP HER TRAP SHUT!



THEY RAN OUT TO THE WAITING CAR AND GOT AWAY. I PULLED THE ALARM AND CALLED FOR HELP.

COULD YOU IDENTIFY EITHER ONE OF THE MEN IF YOU SAW THEM AGAIN?

I'M ALMOST SURE ONE OF THEM CAME INTO THE STORE A SHORT WHILE BEFORE THE ROBBERY AND LOOKED AT DIAMOND BRACELETS!

HELP! HELP!

BONG! BONG!
BONG! BONG!
BONG!



AND I COULD HAVE LIKED HIM TERRIBLY! WHAT COULD HAVE MADE A MAN LIKE THAT BECOME A THIEF?



THAT NIGHT I TOLD MYRTLE, MY ROOMMATE,
ABOUT THE ROBBERY.

YOU OUGHT TO BE GRATEFUL
FOR A LITTLE EXCITEMENT.
IF YOU ASK ME KID, YOU
LEAD A PRETTY DULL LIFE.
EVEN A ROBBERY SHOULD
BE A CHANGE!

I DON'T NEED
THAT KIND OF
CHANGE AND
EXCITEMENT.
IT WAS DREAD-
FUL!



I WAS JUST KIDDING--
BUT I NEVER SAW SUCH
A PERSON FOR STICKING
AROUND AS YOU ARE.
EDDIE KNOWS SOME
SWELL FELLAS YOU
COULD BLIND-DATE
IF YOU WEREN'T SO
HIGH-HAT.

I'VE TOLD YOU
BEFORE, MYRTLE,
I'M SORRY, BUT I
DON'T LIKE EDDIE,
AND I DON'T LIKE
HIS FRIENDS.



WELL, THAT'S TOUGH! BUT IT DOESN'T
BREAK MY HEART. I'M JUST SORRY FOR
YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY
FUN. EDDIE'S A GOOD GUY, AND I'M
CRAZY ABOUT HIM. I DON'T SEE ANY-
BODY GIVING YOU DIAMONDS!



BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO EVEN THINK ABOUT DIAMONDS
IF THEY COULD MAKE A CRIMINAL OF A MAN LIKE THE
ONE WHO HAD COME INTO THE STORE.

I'M A FOOL TO KEEP THINKING
ABOUT HIM... I HOPE I NEVER
SEE HIM AGAIN. IT WOULD
BE AWFUL TO HAVE TO
IDENTIFY HIM!



I WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE WALKED INTO THE STORE
THE NEXT DAY... I KNEW I OUGHT TO CALL THE
POLICE, AND YET...



OH!

HELLO! I CAME BACK TO TELL YOU I
WAS FORCED TO PURCHASE THE BRACE-
LET ELSEWHERE. A FRIEND OF
MINE HAD ALREADY ORDERED
ONE FOR ME FROM AN IM-
PORTER.

WAS HE TESTING ME? WAS HE TRYING TO
SEE IF I RECOGNIZED HIM AS THE BANDIT?



WE WERE HELD UP
RIGHT AFTER YOU WENT
OUT YESTERDAY, AND THE
BRACELETS YOU LOOKED
AT WERE ALL STOLEN!

4 S. WE TALKED ABOUT THE ROBBERY, I REALIZED THIS MAN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE THIEF WHO HAD SEEMED FAMILIAR TO ME... HOW SILLY I'D BEEN TO LET MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE ROBBERY. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOU. BUT THE REASON I CAME BACK WAS TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D THINK I WAS RUSHING THINGS IF I ASKED YOU TO HAVE DINNER WITH ME.

OH, I--I COULDN'T!

IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T BEEN INTRODUCED? I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT-- BUT I KNEW YESTERDAY I WANTED TO KNOW YOU EVEN IF WE HAD TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES. I'M LOREN GALE.

I--I'M BARBARA LAWRENCE.

PLEASE, BARBARA LAWRENCE, FORGET THE CONVENTIONS JUST ONCE AND MAKE BELIEVE WE'VE BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED. I CAN'T LOSE YOU WHEN I'VE JUST FOUND YOU.

I--I DON'T USUALLY DO THINGS LIKE THIS...

I KNEW IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE, BUT THAT NIGHT I WENT DANCING WITH THE MAN I'D SUSPECTED OF BEING A BANDIT! I HOPED HE'D NEVER GUESS I'D BEEN SILLY ENOUGH TO SUSPECT HIM!

WHEN I SAW YOU YESTERDAY, SOMETHING TOLD ME YOU WERE AS SWEET AND WONDERFUL AS YOU LOOKED--AND NOW I KNOW THAT'S TRUE. OH, BARBARA, I'M SO GLAD I FOUND YOU!

AS THE DAYS PASSED, IT SEEMED LIKE A MIRACLE THAT A MAN LIKE LOREN GALE HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME. I STILL KNEW VERY LITTLE ABOUT HIM EXCEPT THAT HE WAS WONDERFUL, BUT I WAS SURE THAT MY SUSPICIONS HAD BEEN ABSURD!

I LOVE YOU, BARBARA! DON'T SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE, DARLING-- IT'S HAPPENED, AND YOU KNOW IT!

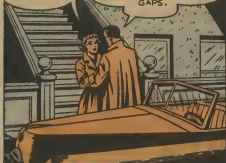


YOU'VE ASKED ME TO MARRY YOU, LOREN, BUT I STILL KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT YOU--

THAT'S TRUE, DARLING. I'VE BEEN SO BUSY TRYING TO SELL YOU ON THE IDEA OF LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN TO FILL IN OTHER IMPORTANT GAPS.

WE'LL CATCH UP ON THOSE IMPORTANT THINGS TOMORROW NIGHT. I WANT YOU TO MEET MY OLDER BROTHER. WE'RE IN BUSINESS TOGETHER, AND HE'S ALL THE FAMILY I HAVE. GOOD NIGHT, DARLING. UNTIL TOMORROW--

UNTIL TOMORROW--



I WAS DREAMING WONDERFUL DREAMS OF LOREN WHEN MYRTLE CAME IN. SHE SEEMED TENSE AND EXCITED.

EDDIE AND I WERE MARRIED TONIGHT, KID, AND WE'RE GOING AWAY ON A HONEYMOON. SURPRISED? I FEEL BADLY ABOUT LEAVING YOU LIKE THIS. BUT YOU'LL GET ANOTHER ROOMMATE TO HELP PAY THE RENT, BARBARA.

WHY, MYRTLE, OF COURSE I'M SURPRISED! I--I HOPE YOU'LL BE VERY HAPPY. AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE RENT OR ME.

SAY, KID, AS I CAME IN, SOME GUY DOWN ON THE STOOP GAVE ME THIS PACKAGE FOR YOU AND SAID YOU SHOULD KEEP IT WITHOUT OPENING IT UNTIL HE CALLED FOR IT.

FOR ME? ARE YOU SURE HE SAID FOR ME? WHO COULD IT HAVE BEEN? WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?



IT'S HEAVY, AND IT HAS NO MARKINGS ON IT. HOW FUNNY!

I COULDN'T SEE WHAT THE GUY LOOKED LIKE IN THE DARK. I'VE GOTTA RUSH NOW--EDDIE'S WAITING FOR ME. SO LONG, KID. EDDIE AND I WILL CALL FOR MY CLOTHES WHEN WE GET BACK FROM OUR HONEYMOON.

IT'S PROBABLY FROM LOREN--SOME SORT OF SURPRISE. HE'LL TELL ME ABOUT IT TOMORROW. I'LL PUT IT AWAY IN THE DRAWER. I WONDER WHAT IT CAN BE?

BUT I'D JUST GOTTEN INTO BED WHEN THERE WAS A HEAVY POUNDING ON THE DOOR...

WHO IS IT?

IT'S THE POLICE! OPEN UP!



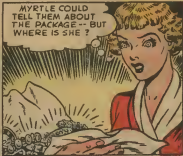
“CLEVER WORK, BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH. IT LOOKED LIKE AN INSIDE JOB. FROM THE FIRST, I THOUGHT THOSE BANDITS GOT AWAY PRETTY EASILY. WE KNOW SILKY SMITH GAVE YOU ALL OF IT. HIS PALS SQUEALED ON HIM AFTER HE DOUBLE-CROSSED THEM.”

“I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! THIS IS HORRIBLE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO'S SILKY SMITH? I NEVER HEARD OF THE MAN!”

“THIS MUST BE IT, CHIEF!”

“I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT BUT IT MUST BE TRUE! LOREN GALE WAS A THIEF, AFTER ALL! HE'D FELT THE NET OF THE LAW CLOSING IN ON HIM AND HAD TRIED TO GET RID OF THE JEWELS. AND THE POLICE BELIEVED I WAS HIS ACCOMPLICE!”

“MYRTLE COULD TELL THEM ABOUT THE PACKAGE-- BUT WHERE IS SHE?”



SUDDENLY THERE WAS A COMMOTION IN THE HALL...

“IF YOU GENTLEMEN WILL STEP OUTSIDE, YOU'LL FIND A POLICEMAN HAS ARRESTED THE GIRL YOU REALLY WANT. HER NAME IS MYRTLE, AND SHE JUST MARRIED EDDIE 'SILKY' SMITH-- ONE OF THE MEN WHO ROBBED THE BURR JEWELRY STORE.”

“LOREN!”

“NO WONDER I'D THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THE BANDIT. HE WAS MYRTLE'S BOY FRIEND!”

“EDDIE KNEW THE COPS WERE AFTER HIM, AND HE MADE ME PLANT THE STUFF ON BARBARA WHEN THINGS GOT HOT. I--I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT, BUT...”

“THEY'VE ROUNDED UP THE OTHER TWO BANDITS, TOO.”



WHEN THE POLICE HAD GONE, TAKING MYRTLE AND EDDIE WITH THEM...

“I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU FIGURE IN THIS?”

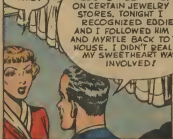
“I'M AN INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CATCH EDDIE AND HIS CROWD FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S MY BUSINESS TO KEEP MY EYE ON CERTAIN JEWELRY STORES. TONIGHT I RECOGNIZED EDDIE, AND I FOLLOWED HIM AND MYRTLE BACK TO THIS HOUSE. I DIDN'T REALIZE MY SWEETHEART WAS INVOLVED!”

“THEN IT WASN'T ALL BUSINESS WITH YOU? YOU REALLY MEANT THE THINGS YOU TOLD ME?”

“IT STOPPED BEING BUSINESS THAT FIRST DAY I WALKED INTO YOUR STORE-- AFTER THAT I WAS JUST A MAN IN LOVE!”

“I THOUGHT AT FIRST YOU WERE A BANDIT-- AND YOU ARE. YOU STOLE MY HEART!”

“NO, DARLING-- I JUST EXCHANGED IT FOR MY OWN!”



The END

SHORT-CUTS TO GLAMOR

POSTURE, POISE, AND PERSONALITY

Queens have no monopoly on queenliness. You, too, can have the regal carriage, the sure grace of movement, the poise in repose that commands respect and admiration! You'll find, too, that once you have acquired a queenly bearing, your mind, freed from self-consciousness, will begin expanding and your personality developing.

STAND AND SIT "TALL"

The queenly bearing starts in the mind. First, you must feel that your carriage adds to your power and inner poise. Feel that your posture attracts attention to yourself. Always think of yourself as a picture. Try to visualize the picture you make when you stand, sit, walk. At first this will be difficult for you who are not used to standing and sitting "tall." But after a while it will become easy, natural, automatic, and you will find that your mind has greater freedom.

YOUR VOICE IMPROVES

Your posture has a direct effect on your voice. When you are slumped or hunched, it is impossible for you to breathe correctly and to give the full tonal range to your voice. Try it. Sit in a cramped position and read a passage from a book aloud. Now, straighten up and read that passage again. This time your voice is smoother, tones rounder, more musical. Especially, remember this effect of posture on your voice when you are fatigued. Fatigue heightens the tendency to harsh tones, but good posture will relieve this.

A MODEL STAND

Our advice to you is to think of yourself as an actress who has just received the cue to walk onstage. Try to touch the ceiling with the very crown of your head. This automatically pulls your stomach up and in, lifts your chest and gives an easy set to the shoulders. Flex your knees slightly. Now your entire body appears vital, alive, perfectly balanced.

Here's an exercise to strengthen the muscles you need to slip into and maintain this posture easily:

Stand "tall" with your back against the wall, with your head, shoulder, small of back (if possible) and heels touching the wall. Pull your stomach in and up. Now walk away from the wall, keeping this position. Walk about the room this way. Go about your work holding this posture. Return to the wall every few minutes to check up on your posture and start again.

GRACEFUL WALKING

Master some of these tips and you'll be walking

with the sure, proud ease of a fashion model. First, resolve to eliminate all unnecessary motion in walking. Don't bounce or wiggle!

Second, hold your body erect and move your legs from your hips. Your hipbones and your breastbones are the points of your body to keep in mind. In walking, you have some flexibility of knees and ankles. You roll or rock from the center back of your heel across the length of the floor and off the second toe. The weight is supported by the ball of your feet and your heel is only a prop. Don't forget—the major movement comes from the hip joints.

Third, point your feet straight ahead in walking but don't try to walk a chalk line. Keep your feet parallel. Your steps should be reasonably close together. If they are too long, you will have to reach for them, and this will cause a wiggle or a sideward motion.

SITTING WITH POISE

Just look about you and make a mental note of the gracelessness of the sitting postures of some girls, and you'll find yourself automatically sitting straighter.

Approach the chair and try to feel it with the side of your leg without turning to see if it is there. Now cross your feet at the ankles and seat yourself.

Keep your weight centered on your hips and hold your spine in a straight line, once you are seated. Let any movement come from your waist as though your backbone were pivoting in the socket of your hips.

HAND MOVEMENTS

Your hands should be well-groomed, or you'll find yourself hiding them from sight. This will naturally distract from your poise. No hand movement should be jerky. In general, all hand movement begins with the wrist. The hands themselves should be relaxed and limber. Avoid all fluttery, fidgety motions with your hands. Bony or large hands appear to best advantage when seen from a side view or angle. Practice holding your hands in this manner until it becomes a habit. When you cross your arms, tuck your thumbs in and slide your fingers up the sides of your upper arms.

Your pretty face can be appreciated only when someone is close to you, but a queenly carriage attracts admiration from a distance. The homeliest face appears confident, regal when the carriage is good. A good carriage makes you look important and attracts people to you.

HOW TO GET THAT SECOND DATE

Usually it's easy enough to get the first date. A boy sees you, likes your looks, wonders what you're like. The only way he can find out is to see you again—so he asks you for a date. The first date is largely a matter of experiment with him, tried on almost any girl who, at first glance, seems worth an evening's time. But the second—

It's just a matter of being yourself—and avoiding certain pitfalls that put an end to future dates. If you've been wondering why your telephone doesn't ring after first dates, check up on your rating technique:

1. Do you give a false impression of yourself? When you go out with a boy for the first time, do you feel it necessary to act more sophisticated or clinging or bold or innocent or anything else than what you really are? Don't! You can fool a boy once, but the chances are that you can't fool him twice.
2. Are you sufficiently entertaining? Just because a boy has asked you for a date, don't think the job of interesting him is over! Don't make him do all the entertaining, bear the full burden of keeping up a conversation. Keep awake! Try to please him! Sparkle! Have a good time, and show you're having it!
3. Are you too possessive? Remember, one date doesn't give you an option on a boy. It's a bad idea to make plans for the future that include him, to assume that you're going to see a lot of him from now on, and to let him know you assume that you're going to see a lot of him from now on. Take nothing for granted. Let him make all the first moves. If he's interested, he will.
4. Are you too expensive? There are a dozen ways in which a girl may make a man spend more money than he wants to or intended to on a first date, but if she does she'll never get a second. Keep within what seems to be his budget.
5. Do you stay out too late? Being the life of the party is all right—but it's a wise girl who knows when to go home. If you keep a boy out so late on his first date with you that he's dead on his feet the next day at the office, he probably won't date you again. At the same time, the girl who spoils an entire evening by worrying about what time she's going to get home isn't very appealing either. Try to strike a happy medium.

6. Are you too suspicious? Do you think every boy you date has dishonorable intentions? If you're a nice girl and date nice boys, you need no other safeguard than your reputation. Don't do or say anything to give him the wrong impression of your morals. Don't date in the constant fear that the next minute will bring a suggestion from your escort that you'll resent. You can always say no.

7. Are you always late for a date? Don't be! Take plenty of time to dress. Be sure you're well-groomed. Don't keep him waiting. Dress, as if you wanted to please him—and you probably will!

8. Do you boast of other conquests? You want a boy to think you're popular, of course—but don't be obvious about it! Don't keep comparing this date with others you've had. Don't tell him about the other boys in your life. If you're popular, he'll hear about it.

9. Are you too shy? Do you start out on a date wondering what on earth you'll talk about? If so, make your date do the talking. Ask him about himself. Discover your mutual interests.

10. Do you kiss and tell? The next time you're tempted to tell a friend the full details of your date, think how you'd feel if it all got back to the boy. No boy likes to think that his evening with you is going to be the town topic for conversation the next day. Be discreet—not only about kissing, but about telling!

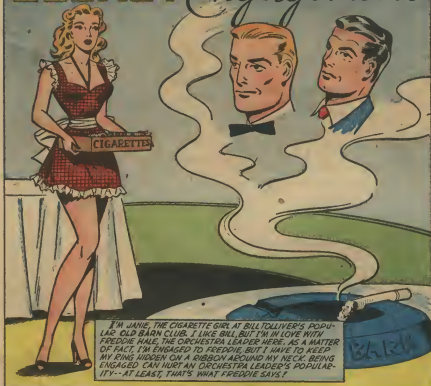
PUZZLED ABOUT PRESENTS?

You've spent a lovely week-end down at the shore with your best friend, and you'd like to say thank you in a way that will really show your appreciation to your friend and her mother. You realize, of course, that it was Judy's mother who looked after your comfort—so if you can afford only one gift, make sure that it is sent to her.

You might look around for a nice brooch or clip, either by itself, or as part of a set with earrings. She would probably appreciate sweet scents and soft creams. Try some cologne, or bath sets with bath crystals and delightful floral perfumes.

For your girl friend, if your money stretches that far, you can get a little change purse with compartments for different coins and an attached key ring. Lingerie clips, sachet bags, stockings, handkerchiefs and glove boxes are all suitable and inexpensive. A personalized address or date book is handy, and a pile of fluffy powder puffs in a dainty cellophane container is attractive for her dressing table. Even a nice hankie will always find a welcome.

SECRET Engagement



I'M JANIE, THE CIGARETTE GIRL AT BILL TOLLIVER'S POPULAR OLD BARN CLUB. I LIKE BILL, BUT I'M IN LOVE WITH FREDDIE HALE, THE ORCHESTRA LEADER HERE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M ENGAGED TO FREDDIE, BUT I HAVE TO KEEP MY RING HIDDEN ON A RIBBON AROUND MY NECK. BEING ENGAGED CAN HURT AN ORCHESTRA LEADER'S POPULARITY--AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT FREDDIE SAYS!

ELAYNE DAVE SINGS WITH FREDDIE'S ORCHESTRA. SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL THAT HAS TO HAVE EVERY MAN AROUND CRAZY ABOUT HER! SHE FLIRTS OUTRAGEOUSLY WITH BOTH FREDDIE AND BILL...

I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL ELAYNE WE'RE ENGAGED. THEN SHE'LL LEAVE YOU ALONE. IT ISN'T NECESSARY FOR HER TO RUMPLE YOUR HAIR AND FUSS WITH YOUR TIE WHILE SHE'S SINGING THOSE TORCH SONGS!

SHE DOESN'T MEAN A THING BY IT, HONEY! IT'S JUST THAT ELAYNE KNOWS HER AUDIENCES, AND STUFF LIKE THAT GOES OVER BIG! BUT YOU MUSTN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT US YET!



YOU'VE BEEN SAYING THAT SO LONG, DARLING! HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO KEEP PRE-TENDING?

I'D BE PROUD TO HAVE THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW HOW I FELT ABOUT YOU. BUT YOU SEE HOW IT IS, BABY. I'VE GOT MY CAREER TO CONSIDER. THE MORE MONEY I MAKE AND THE MORE FAMOUS I GET, THE MORE I'LL HAVE TO OFFER YOU! PLEASE BE PATIENT, JANIE!



I WANTED SO MUCH TO BELIEVE FREDDIE! AS I WENT FROM TABLE TO TABLE THAT NIGHT, IT STILL DISTURBED ME TO SEE THE WAY FREDDIE AND ELYNE LOOKED AT EACH OTHER!



I WAS SO BUSY WATCHING THEM THAT I SCARCELY PAID ANY ATTENTION TO THE PARTY OF PROSPEROUS-LOOKING MEN WHO SAT AT A RINGSIDE TABLE AND BOUGHT MY MOST EXPENSIVE CIGARETTES.



I'D BEEN A CIGARETTE GIRL LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THE ANSWERS TO MOST LINES. THIS WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST ONES I HAD TO CONTEND WITH-- THE HOLLYWOOD GAG!

THANKS A LOT, BUT I'M LIKE GARBO. I WANT TO BE ALONE-- AND HOLLYWOOD'S PRETTY CROWDED!



YOU'RE A SMART GIRL! DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO MAC. HE'S GOT ONLY A TEN-CENT COMPANY, ANYHOW, BUT I CAN GET YOU A TEST WITH SUPREME FILMS! I OWN TEN PERCENT OF THE STOCK, A GIRL LIKE YOU SHOULD HAVE A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT AT

IT WOULD SCARCELY BE WORTH MY WHILE! MY TIPS AVERAGE MORE THAN THAT HERE!

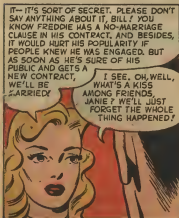
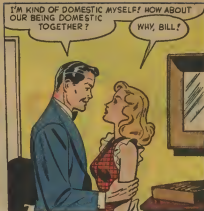


YOU THINK WE'RE KIDDING, DON'T YOU? BUT WE'RE ON THE LEVEL! ALL OF US HAVE STUDIO CONNECTIONS, AND WE'VE BEEN NOTICING YOU. YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES!

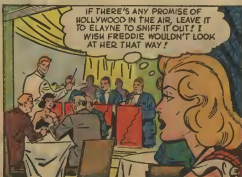


TERRIBLY SORRY, GENTLEMEN, BUT I THINK SOMEONE AT THE NEXT TABLE WANTS TO BUY SOME CIGARETTES. I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF THE LITTLE GIRL DOES SOME BUSINESS.





MY LIPS STILL QUIVERED FROM BILL'S KISS! IT WAS FUNNY NOW UPSETTING AN UNEXPECTED KISS COULD BE! I GLANCED OVER AT FREDDIE, BUT HE WAS LOOKING EAGERLY AT ELAYNE!



FREDDIE USUALLY TOOK ME HOME, BUT TONIGHT HE WASN'T AROUND! I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING IF HE'D GONE SOMEPLACE WITH ELAYNE. BUT I SCOLDED MYSELF FOR EVEN THINKING SUCH A THING! WHEN YOU LOVED A PERSON, YOU HAD TO TRUST HIM, TOO.



BUT FREDDIE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST LET ME KNOW! I WOULDN'T DO A THING LIKE THIS TO HIM!

FREDDIE ALWAYS DROVE ME TO WORK, SO I WAITED UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. WHEN HE DIDN'T COME, I HAD TO RUSH. IMAGINE MY SURPRISE WHEN I GOT TO THE OLD BARN AND FOUND FREDDIE THERE-- WITH ELAYNE!



HELLO THERE, JANIE! COME OVER AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

THE NEXT MORNING I CALLED FREDDIE! WE USUALLY TOOK A WALK AND HAD BREAKFAST TOGETHER. BUT THIS MORNING NO ONE ANSWERED HIS PHONE. I WAS WORRIED SICK! I WAITED AROUND ALL DAY, BUT HE DIDN'T CALL ME!



MY EYES SOUGHT FREDDIE'S, SEEKING AN EXPLANATION FOR HIS ACTIONS OF LAST NIGHT AND TODAY. BUT FREDDIE WOULDN'T MEET MY GLANCE! ELAYNE'S EYES, HOWEVER, WERE TRIUMPHANT!



WE'RE CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF MY MOVIE CAREER! SOME MEN FROM HOLLYWOOD WERE HERE LAST NIGHT AND OFFERED ME A SCREEN TEST. I TOOK IT TODAY. FREDDIE WENT WITH ME. IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

THAT'S GRAND! I HOPE YOU'LL BE A BIG SUCCESS, ELAYNE!

DON'T WORRY--I WILL BE! AND I'M TAKING FREDDIE TO HOLLYWOOD WITH ME! HE KNOWS MY STYLE OF SONGS AND HOW I LIKE THEM PLAYED.



FREDDIE--IS--GOING WITH-- YOU?

HE CERTAINLY IS! IT'S A BREAK FOR HIM, TOO! HE'D NEVER GET TO HOLLYWOOD ANY OTHER WAY!

HAVE A CIGARETTE?



I COULDN'T BELIEVE FREDDIE WAS GOING TO HOLLYWOOD WITH ELAYNE! WHAT ABOUT OUR ENGAGEMENT? WHAT ABOUT OUR LOVE?

BILL! DON'T LIGHT YOUR CIGARETTE WITH THE SAME MATCH YOU LIGHTED MINE AND FREDDIE'S! THREE ON A MATCH! DO YOU WANT TO BRING ME BAD LUCK?

I DON'T USUALLY SMOKE, BUT LIGHT A CIGARETTE FOR ME, TOO, BILL! WE DON'T WANT TO BRING ELAYNE-- AND FREDDIE-- ANYTHING BUT SUCCESS!



I GUESS THAT'S THE WAY IT IS WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE! YOU JUST CAN'T HURT HIM. I KNEW I OUGHT TO LASH OUT AT FREDDIE-- BUT SOMEHOW I COULDN'T!

I THINK THAT'S PRETTY SWELL OF YOU, JANIE-- CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT IT MEANS YOU AND FREDDIE WILL BE SEPARATED.



I DON'T KNOW WHY IT SHOULD MATTER TO JANIE WHAT FREDDIE DOES! FREDDIE AND I BECAME ENGAGED LAST NIGHT. I CAN HELP HIS CAREER, AND HE CAN HELP MINE. WHERE DOES JANIE COME IN?

WHY DON'T YOU ASK FREDDIE? AND BY THE WAY, JANIE COULD HAVE HAD THAT SCREEN TEST BEFORE IT WAS EVER OFFERED TO YOU, ELAYNE! BUT SHE TURNED IT DOWN IN FAVOR OF A DOMESTIC CAREER!



I'VE HEARD ENOUGH OF THIS NON-SENSE! FREDDIE! DID YOU ASK ME TO MARRY YOU LAST NIGHT JUST SO THAT YOU'D BE ON THE GROUND FLOOR IN CASE I WAS A SUCCESS? HAVE YOU BEEN TWO-TIMING ME WITH JANIE?



DON'T BE SILLY, ELAYNE! BILL WAS KIDDING YOU! FREDDIE DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO ME! AND AS FOR A HOLLYWOOD CONTRACT-- WHAT WOULD I DO IN HOLLYWOOD? I'M A CIGARETTE GIRL, NOT AN ACTRESS!



WHY SPOIL ELAYNE'S TRIUMPH IN HER HOLLYWOOD CONTACT BY LETTING HER KNOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME, INSTEAD, I THOUGHT WEARILY, AS FOR FREDDIE-- I HAD LOST HIM ANYHOW. HOW FUNNY LIFE WAS! IF I HAD TAKEN THOSE MEN SERIOUSLY LAST NIGHT AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A SCREEN TEST, THEY PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE BOTH-ERED WITH ELAYNE, AND FREDDIE WOULD STILL BE MINE!

FOUR ON A MATCH--SO THAT ELAYNE CAN HAVE MY SWEETHEART! I'M A FOOL, I SUPPOSE!



I COULDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT AFTER I SENT MY RING BACK TO FREDDIE. I HAD BUILT MY DREAMS AROUND HIM FOR SO LONG. IT WAS HEARTBREAKING TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING WAS OVER!



SUDDENLY THE TELEPHONE BEGAN TO RING...



HELLO!



JANIE DARLING! THIS IS FREDDIE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I STILL LOVE YOU AND THAT I'M NOT GOING TO HOLLYWOOD WITH ELAYNE. I'M STAYING HERE WITH YOU!

AFTER I HUNG UP ON FREDDIE, I BEGAN TO WONDER WHY HE'D CHANGED HIS MIND-- AND WHY I NOW FELT ALMOST AS IF HE WERE A TOTAL STRANGER!



COULD IT BE POSSIBLE?

I DIDN'T KNOW WHY, BUT I HAD AN IDEA BILL TOLLIVER WAS MIXED UP IN FREDDIE'S CHANGE OF HEART.



FREDDIE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT AND TOLD ME HE WASN'T GOING TO HOLLYWOOD.

YES, HE'S SIGNED A NEW CONTRACT WITH ME.

I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT CONTRACT, BILL.



IT'S A PRIVATE DOCUMENT, JANIE. ONLY THE PEOPLE INVOLVED CAN SEE IT. THAT MEANS FREDDIE AND ME!

WHEN BILL LEFT HIS OFFICE, I WENT BACK AND LOOKED FOR THE CONTRACT. AS I'D THOUGHT--BILL WAS PRACTICALLY FORCING FREDDIE TO MARRY ME! HE WAS OFFERING HIM A FABULOUS SALARY TO STAY AT THE OLD BARN-- BUT ONLY IF HE WERE MARRIED TO ME!



I WAITED FOR FREDDIE OUTSIDE AND I MADE HIM ADMIT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT...

THE GUY IS IN LOVE WITH YOU HIMSELF, JANIE. I DIDN'T MEAN TO ACT LIKE A HEEL. ELAYNE KEPT PUSHING ME.

YOU NEED SOMEONE TO PUSH YOU, FREDDIE-- AND I'M NOT THE PERSON! YOU'D BETTER RUN BACK TO ELAYNE, I'LL STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT WITH BILL.



IN BILL'S OFFICE AGAIN...

I SENT FREDDIE AWAY AGAIN, BILL. I DON'T WANT A MAN WHO HAS TO BE FORCED TO MARRY ME! WHY DID YOU DO IT?

BECAUSE NOT ONE GIRL IN A HUNDRED WOULD HAVE DONE WHAT YOU DID LAST NIGHT. YOU LET ELAYNE HAVE HER PETTY TRIUMPH, AND YOU LET FREDDIE GET AWAY WITH AS LOW A TRICK AS A MAN EVER PLAYED ON A GIRL!



I KNOW NOW WHY I COULD DO THAT, BILL! IT CAME TO ME QUITE SUDDENLY AFTER FREDDIE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT WHEN YOU KISSED ME YESTERDAY, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO ME. I TRIED TO KEEP THINKING OF FREDDIE AS THE ONLY MAN IN MY LIFE, BUT INSTEAD, I STARTED THINKING OF YOU!

JANIE-- KEEP TALKING! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS A LONG TIME!



THEN AT THE TABLE LAST NIGHT I REALIZED THE KIND OF PERSON FREDDIE REALLY IS, AND I DECIDED ELAYNE WAS THE RIGHT GIRL FOR HIM.

FREDDIE AND ELAYNE ARE BOTH TOO SELFISH AND SELF-CENTERED. I GUESS THEY'LL GET ALONG TOGETHER, THOUGH. BUT YOU, JANIE-- YOU'RE SO SWEET! I WANTED YOU TO BE HAPPY EVEN IF IT MEANT LOSING YOU. BUT IF YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME YOU DON'T LOVE FREDDIE ANY MORE--



NO, I DON'T LOVE FREDDIE, BILL! I LOVE YOU! WHAT I FELT FOR FREDDIE

SWEETHEART, I'M THE LUCKY ONE THAT YOU DID! I ADORE YOU!

WAS JUST A POOR SUBSTITUTE FOR LOVE... BUT WASN'T IT LUCKY I FOUND IT OUT IN TIME?



THE END

IT CAN BE DONE ... but don't try it!

Sometimes it's possible to break all the rules—and get away with it.

The famous Tower of Pisa, for instance, has successfully defied both sound engineering practice and the law of gravity for over 800 years.

But for most of us, most of the time, the rules hold.

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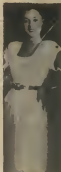
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